

State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Drinking Water

August 23, 2017

Mr. Toby Wells, P.E.
City Manager
2720 2nd Street
Ceres, CA 95307

Subject: Ceres West Mobile Home Park Six-Month Negotiation Period for Water Service

Dear Mr. Wells,

Effective June 24, 2015, Section 116680 through 116684 was added to the California Health & Safety Code, addressing consolidation of public water systems.

Our records indicate that the water delivered by the Ceres West Mobile Home Park public water system (System) contains arsenic at levels that exceed the maximum contaminant level established in state and federal regulations. Since approximately 2006, the System has consistently failed to provide safe drinking water due to the high arsenic levels. It is our understanding the City of Ceres (City) service area is approximately 3,000 feet north of the System, and that the City currently provides water to the Patricia Kay Beaver Elementary School located approximately 1,500 feet from the System.

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) encouraged the City and the System to work out voluntary consolidation of their public water systems in a pre-consolidation letter dated June 13, 2016. City Council meeting minutes from that date indicate that the Council members received the letter and instructed staff to not expend additional time on the request. The System submitted a check to the City for \$3,000 on October 22, 2016, to review the System's request for water supply. In response to a subsequent request from City staff, a Water Supply Feasibility Study, dated May 2017 (revised June 2017) was also submitted. A System representative, their engineers, and the State Water Board's Northern California Consolidation Coordinator, Michelle Frederick, spoke at the City Council meeting on July 10, 2017, to request the City consider supplying water to the System. The Council voted not provide water to the System. The State Board and the System have made every reasonable effort to encourage initial voluntary consolidation discussions.

This letter serves as official notification that, pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 116682, subdivision (b), the City, the potentially receiving water system, is directed to negotiate consolidation with Ceres West Mobile Home Park, the potentially subsumed water system. The City is further directed to complete such negotiations and report the outcome to the State Water Board Division of Drinking Water, Stockton District Office, not later than six (6) months following the date of this letter.

The State Water Board acknowledges that consolidation is a complex process and stands ready to assist you so that you are successful in delivering safe, affordable and accessible drinking water to your neighboring community in a cost-effective manner. Pursuant to Health & Safety Code Section 116682 subdivision (b) (6) (A), during the six month negotiation period, the State Water Board will provide technical assistance and work with the City and the System to develop an appropriate financing package, if needed. Technical assistance will be available from the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water and Division of Financial Assistance.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Bhupinder Sahota, Stockton District Engineer, for the State Water Board, at (209) 948-7696, or me at (530) 224-4867. For funding related questions, please contact the Division of Financial Assistance at (916) 341-5700.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Hinrichs, P.E., Chief
Northern California Section
DRINKING WATER FIELD OPERATIONS BRANCH

cc: Mr. Chris Vierra, Mayor
City of Ceres
2220 Magnolia Street
Ceres, CA 95307

Mr. Jeremy Damas, Public Works Director
City of Ceres
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Ms. Sara Lytle-Pinhey, Stanislaus LAFCO Executive Officer
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continued on the following page

cc: Ms. Jami Aggers, Director of Environmental Resources
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State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Financial Assistance
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Bhupinder Sahota, P.E., Stockton District Engineer
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Michelle Frederick, P.E., Northern California Consolidation Coordinator
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